

CHELTHENHAM UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH CELEBRATES ITS 125TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on September 27, 1998, Cheltenham United Methodist Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary. This white-framed country church in Cheltenham, Maryland has been serving the religious and secular needs of its community since 1873 when its founders met under the chestnut trees that grew where the church now stands.

Although small in size, Cheltenham Church is very active and has a number of ministries that reach out to the local community and beyond. A few of their many activities include serving meals at the Hughesville Shelter for Battered Women, making 1000-plus sandwiches for the homeless for Martha's Table in Washington, D.C., contributing to the Upper Marlboro Food Bank, assisting patients at St. Elizabeth's Hospital at their Sunday church services, and sponsoring several needy families in the area.

Cheltenham Church is an excellent example of late 19th century rural church architecture. Among its other features, the original door-knob and chandeliers remain. The pulpit, still in use today, was made from a cherry tree that fell on church property before the church was built. The bricks for the foundation were hauled from nearby Nottingham by horse and wagon and had been used during the 18th century as ballast in English ships.

Although the church stands a short distance from a major highway, it retains much of its historic setting, buffered by its historic graveyard. It is a noticeable landmark in a still rural area of Prince George's County.

To the members of Cheltenham United Methodist Church, and to their members who have gone on before, we congratulate you on your 125 years of service to your church and to your community!

INTRODUCTION OF TAX LEGISLA-
TION TO CLARIFY TAX TREAT-
MENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX
REDUCTION VOUCHERS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation along with several of my colleagues of the Massachusetts Delegation to correct the tax treatment of real property tax reduction vouchers received in exchange for volunteer work.

The House of Representatives in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has passed legislation that would exempt real property tax vouchers received in exchange for volunteer work from income for state tax purposes. Similar legislation is pending in the State Senate. Many towns in Massachusetts have implemented a program which allows senior citizens to volunteer in exchange for a voucher of \$500 to be used towards their property taxes.

Seniors can volunteer to work in libraries, recreational centers, parks, and senior centers in exchange for a voucher to be applied to their property tax.

This program benefits both the community and the individuals volunteering. My legislation would allow vouchers received in exchange for volunteer work to not be included in gross income. The legislation also exempts these vouchers from employment taxes. Senior citizens who are age 65 are eligible for this legislation. The effective date is for payments made after January 1, 1999.

This legislation enhances an important program that is currently taking place in many towns in Massachusetts. I hope that we can address this issue this year and that there will be an appropriate legislative vehicle.

IN HONOR OF THE ISRAEL CENTER
OF HILLCREST MANOR'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents and the members of the Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor as they join together to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the synagogue. Through the insight of such dedicated and talented community members as Joe Goldstein, Eric Gerstel and Sydney Abrahams, the synagogue's first president, the Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor came into being in 1948, the same year the State of Israel was created. Through unique determination and an indefatigable spirit, these men went from door to door throughout the Flushing, Queens neighborhood building up both spiritual and financial support to establish this synagogue.

Since its inception, the Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor has brought to the community a sense of dedicated service and a foundation of stability that has allowed its membership to raise their families and incorporate all age groups into an environment sensitive to their needs.

The Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor, under the leadership of Rabbi Michael Strasberg, its spiritual leader for more than two decades, and its current president, Leo Lederer, has continued the record of service and caring that is the hallmark of this great house of worship. Having provided the Flushing community for half a century with a vibrant Hebrew School, youth program and a highly effective Men's Club and Sisterhood, the Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor is now prepared to lead its members into the second half century of fulfillment.

There are few organizations that have emerged with a continuous record of compassionate achievement as has the Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor. I ask all my colleagues to rise with me in congratulating the synagogue, its members and officers on this wonderful achievement and extending our warmest support for another fifty years of service.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING AN-
NETTE LEAZENBY, LEGRAND
SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Annette Leazenby, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Annette is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Annette Leazenby is an exceptional student at Waldron High School and possesses an impressive high school record. She has been involved with the National Honor Society. Annette is also involved with the high school band and the drama club. She is a member of the varsity basketball, volleyball, softball and track teams. Outside of school, Annette has been involved in volunteer work at her local church, and is taking college classes.

In special tribute, therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Annette Leazenby for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

IN COMMEMORATION ON THE
FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF VIET-
NAM HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the Fourth Anniversary of Vietnam Human Rights Day. I would also like to congratulate the International Committee for Freedom for organizing this important event and I commend the participants who have come together to promote human rights for Vietnam.

I would like to take this opportunity to call on the Government of Vietnam to respect fundamental human rights and release their religious and political prisoners. The people of Vietnam have waited too long for these basic changes to take place.

By commemorating Vietnam Human Rights Day, we confirm the necessity of placing human rights at the center of United States policy toward Vietnam.

We, as a nation, and as a people, need to be steadfastly committed to human rights, democracy, economic liberty and religious freedom for all the people of Vietnam.

I strongly agree that democracy would not only contribute to regional stability and increased economic development of Vietnam, but also grant sorely-lacking civil liberties and basic freedoms to Vietnamese citizens.

I have the privilege of representing Central Orange County, home to the largest Vietnamese-American population in the United States. Last year, I joined over 2,000 of my constituents to rally in support of human rights and democracy in Vietnam. We marched in protest of the human rights abuses and religious oppression by the current government in Thai Binh and Xuan Loc.

I joined my constituents in sending a strong message to Hanoi—a message that these injustices will not be tolerated—a message that the Vietnamese Government must obey, respect and honor human and religious rights in Vietnam. We must remain strong, vocal, and active on our efforts to bring these human rights abuses to the attention of the international community.

I applaud the efforts of the International Committee for Freedom, and members of the international community, who have come together today to commemorate this important day.

INTERNATIONAL CHRONIC FATIGUE IMMUNE DYSFUNCTION SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of May 12, 1998, as "International Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome (CFIDS) Awareness Day." In doing so, I would like to put a human face to and share the story of an individual in my district who suffers from this illness.

I have met with numerous constituents in my district who are afflicted with CFIDS. Many of these people are waging a valiant battle to bring more public attention and resources to bear on the search for a cure. I would like to recognize in particular the efforts of David Samelman, Marcella Feinsod and the Long Island CFIDS Association, and even Marcella's son, Brandon, who is working in his school to raise public awareness of CFIDS.

Medical professionals have not been able to cure this mysterious ailment. Others do not understand and have often misinterpreted CFIDS as a form of depression. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have been investigating CFIDS for years and unfortunately have yet to find an effective treatment. Numerous studies show that biochemically, endocrinologically, neurologically, neuropsychiatrically, and immunologically CFIDS is a separate and distinct disorder from normal depression. It is heartbreaking to see our parents, neighbors, spouses and children, or anyone suffer through the enduring pain and pervasive weakness of CFIDS, with no remedy currently in sight.

One CFIDS sufferer is George Raisglid of East Setauket, NY. George is a retiree and a Holocaust survivor who in 1987 suddenly took ill during a trip to Israel. After months of tests and experiencing clogged ears, sore throat, in-

somnia, poor tolerance to extreme temperatures and loss of short-term memory, he finally found a doctor who was able to provide treatment for the individual symptoms but knew of no remedy for his general malaise.

George later saw an article in the local newspaper for a support group for CFIDS sufferers, and at the meeting learned that most local physicians, not being familiar with the disease, were unsympathetic to patients' problems. In fact, they often refused to acknowledge that the disease existed. Ten years and thousands of dollars later, George was still ill and had to retire early because of his condition. Today George has good and bad days, and he has expressed to me his sincere desire to increase awareness and funding for CFIDS research to help others like him.

There are an estimated two to three million people in the United States like George Raisglid suffering from CFIDS. In my home area of Eastern Long Island, this cruel disease has stricken a disproportionately high number of people. Experts say an estimated 2,000 cases of CFIDS have been diagnosed throughout Suffolk County. Unfortunately this number may be understated because this disease is often mistaken for a variety of other afflictions.

I am committed to supporting every effort to eradicate this horrible malady, and helping those who suffer its disabling effects. The reality is that doctors and scientists have few answers to this mysterious disease. Though still often treated as depression, researchers have unearthed evidence of subtle abnormalities in the immune systems of CFIDS sufferers. This has led to widely held consensus that Chronic Fatigue is the manifestation of an immune system that has turned on the body that it is supposed to protect.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has assured me that it is also committed to supporting research that will lead to the discovery of the cause of CFIDS. Just as importantly, we must emphasize the need to develop effective methods for diagnosing, treating and preventing this crippling disorder. In Fiscal Year 1987 research for the disease was funded at \$780,000. In FY 1997, CFIDS funding was \$7 million, a ten-fold increase over ten years. While this increase is admirable, it still does not compare with \$26 million spent annually on Parkinson's disease research or \$1 billion spent annually on both cancer and heart disease.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing today as "International Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome Awareness Day." Only through raising recognition of this mysterious ailment can we hope to discover a cure and attain some measure of relief for those who are caught in its exhausting grip.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING CHRISTIN JURY, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence

she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Christin Jury, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Christin is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Christin Jury is an exceptional student at Union City High School and possesses an impressive high school record. She has been involved with the National Honor Society. Christin is also involved with the high school band and the student council, S.A.D.D., and is a peer monitor. She is a member of the varsity basketball, volleyball, softball and track teams. Outside of school, Christin has been involved as a community service director, volunteers at a soup kitchen, and plays the piano.

In special tribute, therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Christin Jury for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

SAINT AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH 1858-1998

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

"The future historian of the Colored Race in America will find interesting and edifying materials for his work in the lives and actions of the important element of Colored Catholics in the Nation's Capital."

Edmond Mallet, 1882.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Saint Augustine Catholic Church which is celebrating 140 years in the District of Columbia.

Saint Augustine Parish had its origins in the efforts of free blacks to obtain dignity and education. The founding of the church resulted from the efforts of a number of African-American freed men and women who worked with Father Charles I. White to build a school for black children. From 1858 until 1863, fund raising and hard work among a number of black families contributed the essential elements to found a school by 1863.

A fair held on the grounds of the White House during July, 1865, resulted in additional funds and a lot was purchased on 15th Street between L and M Streets, NW where a school and chapel were constructed. Building efforts continued and with the assistance of every element within the rapidly growing "colored Catholic" community, vigorous efforts were pursued to erect the grand edifice that would be the first Saint Augustine's.

In 1874, materials and labor were donated to build a new church. To raise the estimated \$75,000, members of the church choir gave